

lion subscribers are expected to be added as other UK cable systems sign on.

History Channel U.K. programming, to come from the A&E/History Channel library and UK-based original acquisitions, will take a distinct UK slant, using British production facilities and a British host. Davatzes says History Channel U.K. programming will be drawn from three sources: "indigenous" programming (approximately 50%); A&E's library (25%), and other international sources (25%).

Davatzes says A&E Television chose the History Channel for its international launch because of History's universal appeal. "The History Channel is to be our international flagship."

The channel's three-hour block will comprise *History Alive*, an anthology of original documentaries; *Our Century*, A&E's classic series about major historical events of the 20th century, and A&E's flagship series *Biography*, which will be tailored for British TV audiences and will use a British host.

History Channel U.K. will start with a two-part presentation: *Titanic: Death of a Dream* and *Titanic: The Legend Lives On* on Monday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. ■

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE: TOP CABLE SHOWS

Program	Network	Time (ET)	HHs. (000)	Rating Cable U.S.
1. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Wed 7:30p	4,714	7.1 4.9
2. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Fri 5:00p	4,670	7.0 4.9
3. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Fri 5:30p	4,635	7.0 4.8
4. NFL Football	TNT	Sun 8:00p	4,583	7.0 4.8
5. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Fri 7:00p	4,479	6.7 4.7
6. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Wed 5:30p	4,476	6.7 4.7
7. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Wed 7:00p	4,463	6.7 4.7
8. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Wed 6:00p	4,429	6.7 4.6
9. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Wed 5:00p	4,175	6.3 4.4
10. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Fri 6:25p	4,169	6.3 4.3
11. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Thu 8:00p	3,923	5.9 4.1
12. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Fri 2:00p	3,831	5.8 4.0
13. O.J. Simpson Update	CNN	Tue 5:30p	3,807	5.7 4.0
14. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Tue 6:00p	3,753	5.6 3.9
15. O.J. Simpson Trial	CNN	Wed 6:30p	3,752	5.6 3.9
1. Movie: 'Little Giants'	HBO	Sat 8:00p	3,224	13.8 3.4
2. Boxing: Jones-Thornton	HBO	Sat 10:20p	2,622	11.2 2.7
3. Movie: 'Milk Money'	HBO	Tue 8:00p	2,409	10.2 2.5
4. Movie: 'Milk Money'	HBO	Sun 9:30p	2,247	9.6 2.3
5. Boxing: Jones-Thornton	HBO	Sat 10:00p	2,187	9.4 2.3

## HEADLINES

### 'Lois & Clark' goes to TBS

TBS has secured the off-network rights to Warner Bros.' *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*, now in its third year on ABC. TBS reportedly paid \$275,000 per episode for the drama, said to also have been sought by Lifetime, Family Channel and USA Networks, among others. A Warner Bros. source says that the TBS offer for the series, available in fall 1997, was made before the Time Warner-Turner merger talks.

### Outdoor Life Network paddles own canoe

The Outdoor Life Network will broadcast the U.S. Canoe and Kayak 1995 NationsBank Whitewater National Championships later this month. The national championships will be held Sept. 16 at Opryland Themeland in Nashville. The hour program will air at various times between Oct. 14 and Nov. 5. The Outdoor Life Network, a partnership of Cox Communications, Continental Cablevision and Comcast Corp., is producing the show in conjunction

with Lingner Group Productions.

### Primed for WBA

Liberty Sports Inc. has signed a new three-year TV contract with the Women's Basketball Association to televise WBA games during the 1996 season. Liberty Sports will distribute 80 regular season games as well as the 1996 WBA All-Star game and play-offs on its Prime Sports regional networks and Women's Sports & Entertainment Network. Last year Liberty aired the WBA's 15 game schedule.

### DIRECTV NBA deal

DIRECTV will start offering its direct broadcast satellite subscribers NBA Team Pass and NBA League Pass, two new out-of-market sports programming packages. NBA Team Pass gives DBS subscribers 40 out-of-market basketball games featuring NBA teams of their choice. NBA Team Pass has a \$99 price tag for the 1995-96 NBA season, which begins Nov. 4. DIRECTV's NBA League Pass season package of more than 700 NBA games has an early-bird price of \$129 until Oct. 31 and a regular

season price of \$149.

### Charter completes acquisition

Charter Communications has completed its acquisition of cable systems in North Carolina, South Carolina and California. The deal brings Charter approximately 180,000 additional cable customers, giving it a total 900,000 customers in its system. Charter gains 15,400 customers in Lenoir, N.C.; 4,300 customers in Greer, S.C., and 10,000 customers in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas of Southern California.

### TNN goes prospecting

The Outdoor Channel has signed an agreement with The Nashville Network to air 52 of TNN's Outdoor Channel's half-hour *Gold Prospector* shows. The program, to premiere Jan. 7, 1996, on TNN, will run on day evenings at 9:30 P.S.T. TNN will run Outdoor Channel programs as part of the arrangement. Launched in 1993, The Outdoor Channel's outdoor sports programming has been distributed primarily on TVRO and C-band satellite systems. —BB

45 episodes per season, as was done with *Cops* on Fox, to allow for first-run stripping within two years, possibly for fall 1997. Meidel hopes the show will launch this summer.

■ The company's *David Viscott* late-night talk strip is being pitched to cable networks. After launching on cable, the show simultaneously would be sold into the syndication market in different dayparts. The show is targeted for June 1995.

■ *Sherman Oaks*, a new late-night comedy serial, is being aimed at syndication. Discussions are being held with a major station group—sources say it is Chris Craft—to serve as a launch platform for the show.

■ *America's Most Wanted: Final Justice*, a strip of the off-Fox network show that adds new footage updating the cases, is cleared in nearly 50% of the country for a fall 1995 launch, including 13 of the top 15 markets. Clearances include Chris Craft/United stations in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Phoenix, New World stations in Detroit, Atlanta, Cleveland, Tampa and Miami and Gaylord's Houston station.

■ A daytime hour talk show strip

## SI gets into syndication

Time Warner's Sports Illustrated Television for the first time will make sports programming available to the syndication marketplace, with initial programming to include shows based on the magazine's 1994 and 1995 swimsuit specials, a *Year in Sports 1995* retrospective and its 40th anniversary special, which aired on NBC last September.

The shows will be syndicated by Raycom, a national events, marketing and syndication company specializing in sports programming.

The SI swimsuit specials are behind-the-scenes looks at the making of the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue, one of the most popular annual magazine issues in the world. The 1994 show aired on ABC in February and will be offered in late spring or summer, 60 to 90 days after NBC's airing of the 1995 show. The 1995 show will be syndicated roughly simultaneously with the 1994 show. The shows are full barter, with three and a half minutes each for local and national. The one-hour anniversary show, *40 for the Ages*, is hosted by Bob Costas and celebrates the 40 most compelling sports figure of the past 40 years, as chosen by the editors of *Sports Illustrated*. The show, which accompanied distribution of the magazine's 40th anniversary issue, likely will be syndicated in mid-1995. The show is full barter, with seven minutes local and seven minutes national.

*The Year in Sports 1995* hour will air in late December or early January 1995 in first-run syndication. There will be a seven-minute local/seven-minute national barter split.

—DT

with former ABC News personality Kathleen Sullivan is being pitched to networks.

■ The company also is developing a talk show featuring *Beverly Hills*,

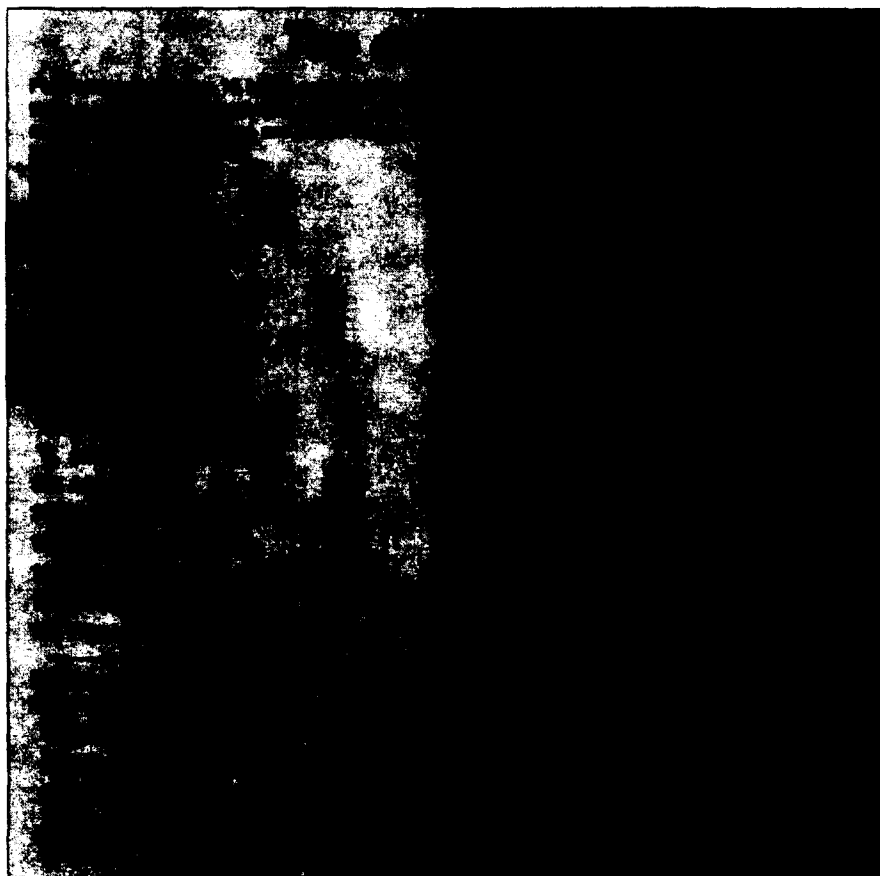
90210 star Gabrielle Carteris for a fall 1995 syndication launch as part of Fox's deal with the New World stations to jointly launch a show on their station groups.

## Columbia taps Bledsoe for talk

Columbia TriStar Television Distribution is pitching a daytime talk strip for fall 1995 featuring former *Cosby Show* child actress Tempestt Bledsoe. Tempestt, which Columbia hopes will attract the same young demos as its *Ricki Lake* talker, is being sold on a cash-plus-barter basis with a barter split of 10.5 minutes local/3.5 minutes national.

The hour show will be produced by Dick Clark Productions. One station rep says that Tempestt looks promising. "She's very good, and they did an excellent job of presentation," says Petry Television's Dick Kurlander. "I think it will get on the air with no problem." Since *The Cosby Show* ended in 1992, Bledsoe, now in her early 20s, has hosted and guest starred in a number of specials.

—DT



# Broadcasting Ratings: Week 12, according to Nielsen, Dec. 5-11

	ABC	CBS	NBC	FOX
<b>MONDAY</b>				
8:00	62. <i>Coach</i> 8.6/14	26. <i>The Nanny</i> 11.9/18	48. <i>Fresh Prince</i> 9.8/15	43. <i>Melrose Place</i> 10.3/11
8:30	68. <i>Coach</i> 8.3/13	22. <i>Dave's World</i> 12.8/19	68. <i>Something Wilder</i> 8.3/12	
9:00	7. <i>NFL Monday Night Football—Los Angeles Raiders vs. San Diego Chargers</i> 17.7/29	21. <i>Murphy Brown</i> 13.0/19	18. <i>NBC Monday Night Movies—Following Your Heart</i> 13.6/21	87. <i>Party of Five</i> 5.5/9
9:30		29. <i>Love and War</i> 11.1/17		
10:00		39. <i>Northern Exposure</i> 10.5/17		
10:30				
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
8:00	15. <i>Full House</i> 14.3/23	57. <i>Rescue: 911</i> 8.9/14	37. <i>Wings</i> 10.6/17	
8:30	19. <i>Me and the Boys</i> 13.5/21		28. <i>Something Wilder</i> 11.3/18	85. <i>Fox Tuesday Night Movie—Gladiator</i> 6.0/9
9:00	1. <i>Home Improvmt</i> 22.3/33		23. <i>Frasier</i> 12.6/19	
9:30	2. <i>Grace Under Fire</i> 21.5/32	71. <i>CBS Tuesday Movie—Come Die With Me</i> 7.8/12	31. <i>J. Larroquette</i> 11.0/17	
10:00	5. <i>NYPD Blue</i> 19.0/32		27. <i>Dateline NBC</i> 11.4/19	
10:30				
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
8:00	44. <i>Sister, Sister</i> 10.2/17	37. <i>Ch Brown Xmas</i> 10.6/17	65. <i>Cosby Mysteries</i> 8.5/14	78. <i>Billboard Music Awards</i> 7.3/12
8:30	31. <i>All American Girl</i> 11.0/17	70. <i>Boys Are Back</i> 8.0/13		
9:00	10. <i>Roseanne</i> 15.1/23	71. <i>Touched by an Angel</i> 7.8/12	49. <i>Dateline NBC</i> 9.6/15	
9:30	10. <i>Ellen</i> 15.1/23		33. <i>Law and Order</i> 10.8/18	
10:00	34. <i>Gala at Ford's Theatre</i> 10.7/18	20. <i>48 Hours</i> 13.3/23		
10:30				
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
8:00	82. <i>My So-Called Life</i> 6.4/10	78. <i>Due South</i> 7.3/12	10. <i>Mind About You</i> 11.1/17	66. <i>Martin</i> 8.4/14
8:30			16. <i>Friends</i> 11.1/17	54. <i>Living Single</i> 9.0/14
9:00	57. <i>Mattlock</i> 8.9/13	59. <i>Chicago Hope</i> 8.7/13	4. <i>Saturday Night Live</i> 11.1/17	73. <i>New York Undercover</i> 7.7/12
9:30		76. <i>Eye to Eye with Connie Chung</i> 7.5/12	13. <i>Madman</i> 11.1/17	
10:00	62. <i>Primetime Live</i> 8.6/14		3. <i>E.R.</i> 11.1/17	
10:30				
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
8:00	34. <i>Family Matters</i> 10.7/19	50. <i>Diagnosis Murder</i> 9.5/17	59. <i>Unsolved Mysteries</i> 8.7/15	87. <i>M.A.N.T.I.S.</i> 5.5/10
8:30	39. <i>Boy Meets Girl</i> 10.5/18		62. <i>Dateline NBC</i> 8.6/15	41. <i>The X-Files</i> 10.4/18
9:00	34. <i>Step By Step</i> 10.7/18	46. <i>In the Heat of the Night</i> 10.1/17	81. <i>Homicide: Life on the Street</i> 7.1/13	
9:30	41. <i>Hangin' w/ Mr. C</i> 10.4/17			
10:00	14. <i>20/20</i> 14.4/25			
10:30				
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
8:00	76. <i>Wonderful World of Disney: 40 Years of TV Magic</i> 7.5/13	28. <i>Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman</i> 11.1/19		80. <i>Cops</i> 7.2/13
8:30		59. <i>Five Mrs. Buch</i> 8.7/15		73. <i>Cops</i> 7.7/13
9:00		53. <i>Hearts Affre</i> 9.1/16	44. <i>Martin</i> 11.1/17	89. <i>Smart Kids</i> 4.1/7
9:30		25. <i>Walker, Texas Ranger</i> 12.0/21		
10:00	84. <i>Lola &amp; Clark</i> 6.1/11			
10:30				
<b>SUNDAY</b>				
7:00	54. <i>Am Fun Hm Vid</i> 9.0/15	6. <i>60 Minutes</i> 18.2/29	52. <i>Earth 2</i> 9.3/15	86. <i>New York Undercover</i> 5.6/9
7:30	73. <i>On Our Own</i> 7.7/12	9. <i>Murder, She Wrote</i> 15.4/23	46. <i>seeQuest DSV</i> 10.1/15	54. <i>Simpsons</i> 9.0/13
8:00				50. <i>Simpsons</i> 9.5/14
8:30				66. <i>Married w/ Children</i> 8.4/12
9:00	23. <i>ABC Sunday Night Movie—Hook</i> 12.6/19	17. <i>CBS Sunday Movie—Reunion</i> 13.7/21	8. <i>NBC Sunday Night Movie—National Christmas Vacation</i>	83. <i>Georgia Carlin</i> 6.3/9
9:30				
10:00				
10:30				
<b>WEEK'S AVGS</b>	12.0/19	10.7/17	11.7/19	7.2/11
<b>SSN. TO DATE</b>	12.2/20	11.9/19	11.5/19	7.8/12

RANKING/SHOW (PROGRAM RATING/SHARE) (nr)=NOT RANKED \*PREMIERE SOURCE: NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH YELLOW TEXT IS WINNER OF TIME SLOT  
TELEVISION UNIVERSE ESTIMATED AT 96.4 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS; THEREFORE ONE RATING POINT IS EQUIVALENT TO 964,000 TV HOMES